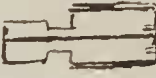


New York Nov. 28. 1843.

Dear Doctor

So you had the cruelty to pass through our city without calling upon your old friend & companion; I sat in my office all the morn^g. expecting your promised visit, and had I been any young woman, should have cried for very disappointment. In one word. Dear Dr. I am very sorry not to see you & to hear your acc^t. of what you had done & seen in the South, but suppose you were very much pressed for time, thence my disappointment. I have just returned from Philadelphia where I went last Wednesday to escort my cousin Miss Dimpert; had a very pleasant visit, saw all the wonders of the City of Penn, of which its Somerset is most marvellous. & that one idea of building houses like a gridiron , there is the ground plan of a pair of houses in Phila. (generally built in pairs, with back buildings that sometimes are considerably larger than the front; went to one of the Winter parties Saturday evg. quite pleasant, the supper excellent; an old gentleman laudator temporis acti. told me that they had degenerated into a matter of eating & drinking, & complained that they are not what they

were, and if they all had followed his example, there wd. have been little wonder at the change; for the old grumler talked to nobody, but ate like an Esquimaux. Went to Wm Penn's house, did not find him in, which I regret, as I wished to ask him what he thought of the Girard college & the modern improvements in architecture & morals which have taken place on his plantation. Would not the old Quaker quake in his shoes, & would not his hat for once be duffed by his hair standing on end. - There is a very fair portrait of him in Independence Hall by Inman, his hat is on, & mine dropped off involuntarily as I entered the room, & fell myself in the presence of these men of a nobler growth. "There is a statue of Washington in wood, but this (nothing, & there on the right is Wm's Paul & Samaras, & that queer, they never seized the document, or saw it or heard of it & there was Mr Lafayette a Frenchman, when you perhaps read of in your minority.

I called the other Evg. on Mr Carey who had just arrived from Buffalo, does not seem to think that it bears any resemblance to Antioch, as it is rather the last place where there is a chance of any being called Christians he looks well, & asked very affectingly of you.

Have you seen Mrs. Gray lately - she sent me a beautiful copy of Saighton's works, to which I recd. a letter of thanks, which I hope she recd. Remember me most kindly to her & her family. Nothing preventing I shall give you a call next Spring or Summer in Boston. When I hope to find you all in order, with the plants thriving & ready to answer to their names. All my family are well except my mother, they wd. send their regards to you if they knew I was writing. I wd. if I had the time tell you something of what I saw & heard of the Catholic faith & some of the miracles in Philadelphia to the cathedral with Miss Harper to hear the bishop of Cincinnati, but wait for a better opportunity - When do you go to house keeping, & who is to pour out the tea, & put the sweetening into your cup. I think we shall enjoy ourselves some of these winter evgs. till then adieu.

Your friend
James Ortable

N.B.

My Cousin John Jay has promised to take charge of this letter, any little attention you may have it in your power to show him will be valued by yours truly J.B.

For

Dr. Asa. Gray-

Prof. of Nat. History

Cambridge

Favor of

Mr. Jay Esq.

